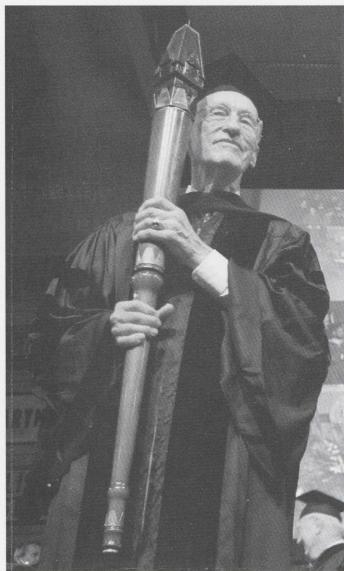


Gallaudet Fact—

Q. What materials of special significance went into the making of the Gallaudet mace that is carried by the faculty marshal?



A. Metal from the first train trestle to cross Florida Avenue, removed and donated to Gallaudet when the Metrorail was constructed

B. Carpenter's nails from the original lectern used to give lectures at Gallaudet and the mold used to create the statue of Edward Miner Gallaudet that stands behind Chapel Hall

C. Wood taken from two deaf schools and the French church served by Abbé Charles Michel de l' Epée

Answer on page 2.



Dr. Alvin Darden, dean of the freshman class at Morehouse College, Atlanta, Ga., gives a presentation entitled "Strengthening Pathways That Lead to College Success Among African American Males" on October 16 in Foster Auditorium. Invited by the Keeping the Promise for Educating Black Deaf Males program, a unit within the newly-created Office of Diversity and Equity for Students, Darden shared his philosophy on effective retention initiatives. In his talk, Darden drew on his years of experience as a student and later as an administrator at Morehouse, a historically black all-male college. In forming retention programs, he said, one must consider the changing international context. "A global society offers so many opportunities for us," Darden said. "You must know how to positively interact with diverse populations." Familiarity with many cultures, races, and languages will work in students' favor in this new multinational community. Rather than try to blend in, he urged students to value their unique cultural traditions. A positive sense of self and pride in one's background is a strong foundation to develop the necessary skills to persist and succeed.

IN THIS ISSUE

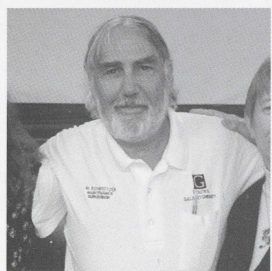


Homecoming 2008

Felicia Matthews and her dog, Flaca, celebrate Homecoming 2008.



Theresa Blankmeyer Burke at the second meeting of the University Club.



Staff Advisory Council (SAC) member Marc Schweitzer at the SAC's Town Hall meeting on October 17.

ON THE GREEN

October 31, 2008 • VOL. 37. NO. 43

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Engine 10 finds new home at Gallaudet while fire station undergoes renovations



Lt. Virginia Fedor, coordinator of community services and investigations for the Department of Safety and Security, is interviewed by Mike Conneen, a reporter for NewsChannel 8, about Engine 10's temporary relocation to Gallaudet while the fire station undergoes renovations.

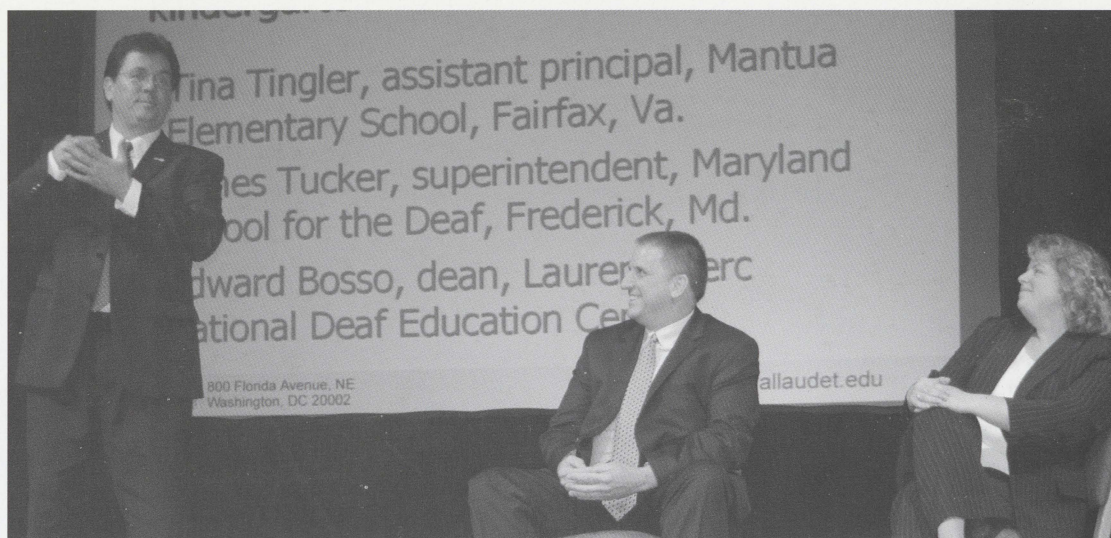
When Engine 10, the Washington, D.C. fire department that serves the city's Trinidad neighborhood, learned in 2005 that it needed to relocate while renovations are made to the 83-year-old building where it is housed, the department's captain at the time, Robert Callahan, called on the assistance of an old friend and neighbor—Gallaudet University.

Engine 10, which holds the distinction of being the busiest fire engine company in the nation in

terms of fire and medical emergency calls it responds to each year, wanted to keep its operations as close as possible to its home on 1342 Florida Ave.—about four blocks from Kendall Green—during the renovations, because moving out of the immediate area would add precious time to emergency responses. After checking out its options, the fire department determined that relocating to Gallaudet would be an ideal solution.

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Enrichment Day offers a chance to envision Gallaudet in the year 2020



James Tucker, superintendent of the Maryland School for the Deaf, Frederick, shares his vision of deaf education in the year 2020 at Gallaudet's October 14 Enrichment Day activities. Seated are Dr. Edward Bosso, dean of the Clerc Center, and Tina Tingler, assistant principal of Mantua Elementary School in Fairfax, Va.

This year's Enrichment Day, held October 14, provided a venue for the Gallaudet community to set in motion a new initiative that will chart the course for the University's future in a time of unprecedented change in the field of higher education.

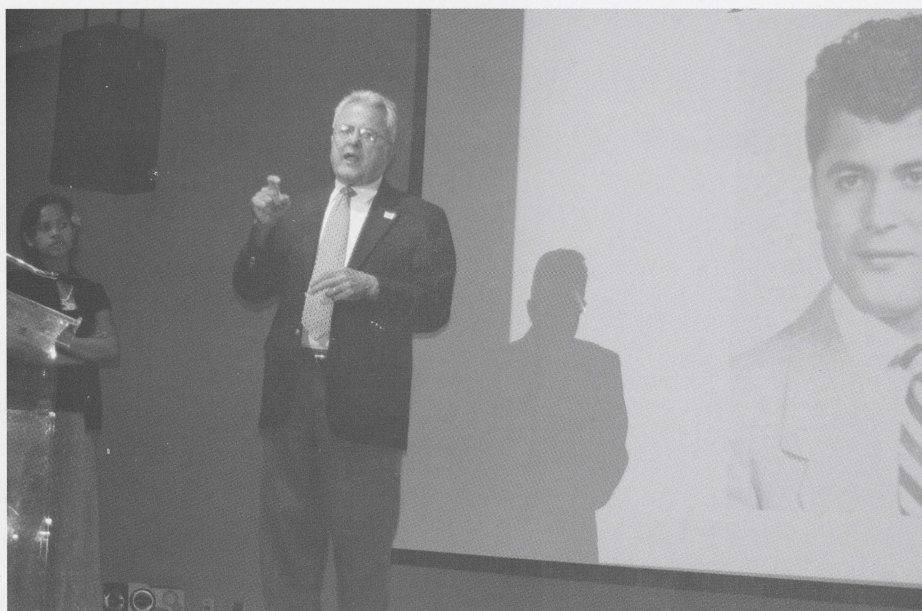
Following the theme "Strategic Visioning 2020," Enrichment Day participants were asked to envision Gallaudet as it should appear to the next generation of deaf and hard of hearing students. The day included presentations by an expert in strategic planning for institutions of higher learning, a panel of educators of some of the young deaf students who will make up Gallaudet's freshman class in the year 2020, and a panel of young deaf people who have almost completed or recently completed their college careers. Each presenter imagined what students of tomorrow will want from a Gallaudet education. During the after-

noon, academic departments hosted small group meetings to discuss questions related to the Gallaudet of tomorrow—What will the University look like in 2020? Who will its students be? How will education be delivered?

President Davila opened the day by addressing the challenge Gallaudet faces in recruiting and retaining quality students in a day when it is no longer the only option for college-bound deaf and hard of hearing students. He mentioned some of the steps that the University has taken to face its present needs—improving its undergraduate curriculum, strengthening its enrollment management program, putting more resources in place to give students the tools they need to graduate, and creating a climate of respect for everyone on campus. But while these short-term needs are proving to be

continued on page 4

Remembering Homecoming 2008



President Davila reminisces about his experiences as a Gallaudet student at the Alumni of Color Reunion on October 18. Dr. Davila said that when he was young he thought he would get a job repairing shoes, but in his teens he set his sights on a Gallaudet education. Davila explained how he studied hard to go to the head of his high school class and gain admission to the University, becoming the first person in his family to go to college and the first Hispanic student to graduate from Gallaudet. As a college student, Davila continued his diligence both in his studies and his work. To find their own success stories, Davila gave alumni and students a message to keep in mind: "You are not going to save the world for anyone until you save it for yourself."



Alumni share their memories with Honors 101 and 102 classes at the beginning of Homecoming weekend. From left: Agnes Padden, who graduated in 1947, described the curfews and late-night singing sessions of World War II-era Gallaudet; Michael Moore recalled the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1968, the year he graduated; Dwight Benedict remembered the popular activity of streaking around the time he walked across the stage (fully clothed) to receive his diploma in 1980; and Marie Ogork fondly evoked Hughes Gym, displaying a piece of the now-defunct building's floor, and pointed out the changes that have occurred on campus in just the short time since her senior year in 1999.



Class of 1983 members proudly display their numbers and their class banner. Almost 80 class members came to mark their 25th anniversary class reunion during Homecoming. From the pep rally hosted by the students to the class parade where they marched with glittering silver teeth in honor of their silver anniversary, the group displayed the same energy they earned a reputation for when they were students: They won Homecoming Spirit Week all five years (from their time as preparatory students until their senior year)—the only class in Gallaudet history to achieve such a distinction.



Felicia Matthews and her dog, Flaca, hang out at Homecoming.



The Homecoming experience would not be complete without alumni watching their alma mater's teams engage in rousing athletic competitions in the crisp fall weather. An estimated 2,500 fans filled the grandstands at Hotchkiss Field on October 18 to see the Bison take on Southern Virginia. Spirits remained high, even though the Bison suffered a 44-9 loss, and the women's soccer team fell to King's College 5-0. A heartwarming moment for alumni sports fans came at an October 19 ceremony when the Gallaudet Athletics Hall of Fame inducted Ernest "Ernie" Epps, Alexander "Sandy" Ewan (deceased), William "Anthony" Jones, Lory Kuschmider (deceased), Ronda Jo Miller, Ken Pedersen, Jeff "Killer" Spielberg, Marty Willigan, Darnell Woods, and Peg Worthington.

Gallaudet Fact—

Answer: C. Wood taken from two deaf schools and French church served by Abbé Charles Michel de l' Epée. According to the "Traditions and Symbols" page on the Gallaudet website, "the mace...is made of the wood of three buildings historic in the education of deaf people. The largest piece is taken from the old interior stairway of the Tower Clock on the Gallaudet campus. Another piece comes from the oldest building on the campus of the American School for the Deaf in Hartford, Conn., which is itself the oldest school for deaf students on this continent. The smallest piece of all is a piece of plank from the wall behind the pulpit of a small 16th century church in Feuges, France, that was served by the Abbé Charles Michel de l' Epée. Historians recognize him as the founder, in Paris, of the oldest free school for deaf students in the world."

ON THE GREEN

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Engine 10

continued from page 1

In response, Lt. Virginia Fedor, coordinator of community services and investigations for the Department of Public Safety, set out on a mission to help find Engine 10 a home on Kendall Green. She discussed the engine company's request with Darnese Nicholson, transportation director, and Pamela Rypkema, manager of Risk Management and Insurance, and it was decided that the Appleby Building, the current site of the Department of Transportation (DOT) would be a good possibility. The Appleby Building, located at the corner of Florida Avenue and Sixth Street, was a car dealership before the property was sold to the University, and it still has a large storage bay that the former dealership used as a garage. This is a necessary feature for Engine 10 because D.C. law requires that fire and rescue equipment be stored in an enclosed area when not in operation.

"We weighed the options, and decided that it would help Gallaudet and the surrounding community if we could help keep them in their service area," said Fedor. The University also felt that having a fire and rescue unit on campus would be a definite security advantage in the event of a campus emergency, she said. Also, because Gallaudet and Engine 10 have enjoyed a positive relationship over the years, the University wanted to do what it could to honor the fire department's request. Fedor explained that Engine 10 conducts yearly safety days at KDES and the Child Development Center, in addition to playing an active role in an annual campus-wide fire safety week, which was held October 6 to 10 this year and included an open house at the temporary station in the Appleby Building.

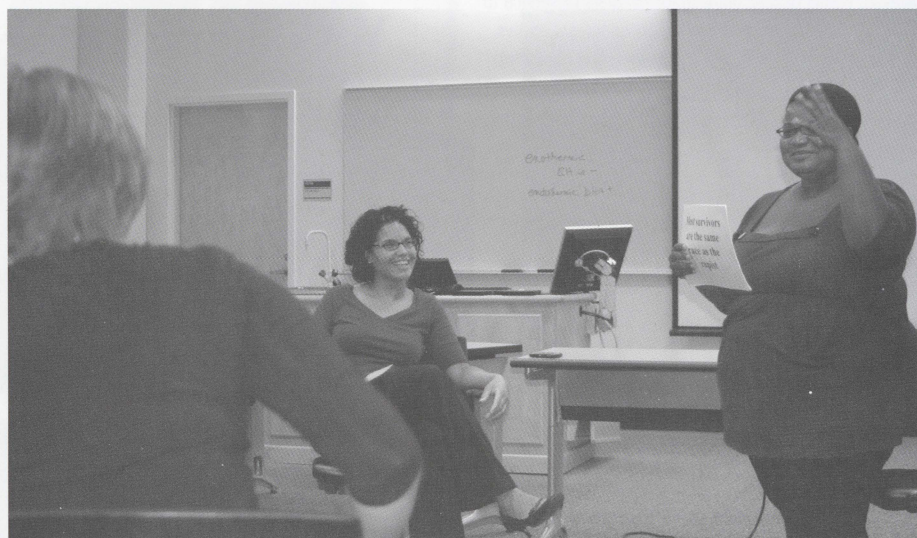
The District of Columbia Government approved funding for renovations so that living quarters could be incorporated into the southwest corner of the Appleby Building, and employees in Gallaudet's Department of Facilities did the work. A room that had served as an occasional training area for DOT staff was renovated to provide living quarters for the fire and rescue crew, and a station for the dispatcher to handle incoming calls. Although there are restrooms, there are no shower facilities, so the crew members have permission to shower at the Field House. The only other major task was to install an electronic gate on Sixth Street near Florida Avenue to serve as an entrance and exit for the fire and rescue equipment.

It took about a year for the University to adapt the facility to accommodate the needs of an active fire and rescue unit. The work was completed in July and Engine 10 moved into its temporary home, which it estimates it will occupy for up to two years.

The fire department has 30 full-time and part-time staff members who serve in four, 24-hour rotating shifts, with approximately six people on duty at any given time. While the two parking bays in the garage are sufficient to accommodate Engine 10's fire engine and ambulance, there isn't enough room for the department's 55-foot ladder truck, so it is being housed at the Engine 8 fire station on C Street, SE.

The arrangement is working out well, said Fedor. The Engine 10 employees

Myths, truths, and audism addressed in sexual aggression workshops



Lucane LaFortune (right), director of community education for the DC Rape Crisis Center, leads a workshop in the Awareness of Sexual Aggression workshop series. Kyle Amber Clark, a mental health counselor at Gallaudet who helped to organize the workshops, acts as a participant.

According to the D.C. Rape Crisis Center (DCRCC), sexual assault is a very real problem in the deaf community. It reports that the level of sexual abuse against deaf women and girls is twice as high as for those who are hearing, and deaf women are 150 to 200 percent more likely to be abused by their partners and caregivers. Deaf and hard of hearing women also face greater barriers to reporting abuse—and many may not report it at all.

As part of an ongoing outreach effort, the DCRCC recently teamed up with Gallaudet's Mental Health Center

(MHC) to address these problems on campus, and their causes. With the help of the Deaf Abused Women's Network, they created the Awareness of Sexual Aggression workshop series and offered it this fall to all Gallaudet students.

"The purpose is to open a dialogue," said Kyle Amber Clark, a mental health counselor at the MHC. She helped to organize the series with Dr. Talibah Buchanan, also an MHC counselor.

The workshop series incorporates an awareness of issues facing the deaf community and the barriers caused by audism. Some of the problems arise after sexual aggression occurs, causing challenges

to reporting the incident and getting support, and resulting in what Clark calls a "second victimization." When a deaf survivor tries to contact a hospital or shelter, for example, someone answering the phone might become confused by the relay operator or TTY tones and hang up. Other problems stem from deaf children not having access to the same information as hearing ones, and not understanding how to report their victimization.

During a recent workshop session, Lucane LaFortune, DCRCC's director of community education, created dialogue about sexual aggression in a number of ways. One activity focused on the many misconceptions about sexual aggression that exist on college campuses. LaFortune made statements about rape and sexual assault and asked the participants to deem them either myth or fact. In another activity, she presented the group with different situations and asked them to categorize their judgment as "rape," "not rape," or "not sure." Some of the hypothetical scenes described involved alcohol and invitations into dorm rooms, factors that could make such categorizations difficult.

When members of the group disagreed during any of the activities, they explained why they took their stances. LaFortune was ready with new angles to consider and information to settle the disagreements. Buchanan and Clark also took part in the exercises and offered their insights as members of the Gallaudet community and as mental health professionals.

"Understanding boundaries isn't something always taught to young students," said LaFortune. "They might not understand good touch and bad touch." Later, as college students, misconceptions can continue.

LaFortune began her outreach into the Gallaudet community through Health and Wellness Programs in 2005. Since then, she has taken ASL and added more TTY lines in her office. Her organization's website also features information for deaf survivors of sexual assault. LaFortune is still learning about the struggles that deaf victims of sexual violence face, but addressing it in the context of audism has worked. In the first sessions, she said, "I was surprised and invigorated to see the 'ah ha' moments in the room."

"It's like planting a seed," Clark said of the series, and pointed out that members of the deaf community get much of their information from one another and that these workshops promote more accurate messages. "I think people are becoming more aware," she said.

The 12 sessions run from September 5 to November 21. Buchanan and Clark hope to continue the program or create others like it in the future.

Certificates are available for those who attend at least 10 sessions, but the more intangible rewards, the organizers believe, will become evident through increased awareness on campus. ■



Some of the key collaborators in the effort to relocate Engine 10 to the Appleby Building while the fire station is undergoing renovations are (from left): Pamela Rypkema, manager of risk management and insurance; Darnese Nicholson, director of Transportation; Christopher Jordan, battalion chief; Lt. Virginia Fedor, coordinator of community services and investigations for the Department of Safety and security; and Amon Brown, manager of facilities operations and maintenance in Maintenance Services.

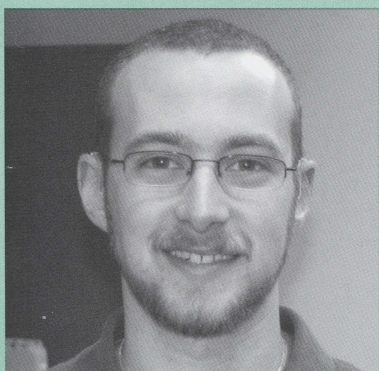
take precautions to not disrupt any aspect of campus life and have taken an interest in what goes on around the University. "They are eager to be a part of the community," said Fedor, who said she routinely stops by the station to teach crew members basic sign language. She also gives credit for the success of the Appleby renovation to the cooperation and diligence of several individuals on campus—George Gateau, manager of Access Control; Amon Brown, manager of facilities operations and maintenance in Maintenance Services; Rypkema; Nicholson; and Field House faculty and staff, including Dr. Ronald Dreyer, chair

of the Department of Physical Education and Recreation, Michael Weinstock, director of the Department of Athletics, and Kris Gould, intramurals and equipment coordinator.

Engine 10, likewise, is happy with its temporary home. "This is working out great!" said Battalion Chief Christopher Jordan. He extended his appreciation on behalf of everyone at Engine 10 to Callahan, his predecessor, and to Fedor for identifying the Appleby Building as a potential place to relocate the fire department. "With the help of a lot of Gallaudet University staff, it worked out," he said. ■

Roving Reporter

What is a memorable costume you've worn in Halloweens past?



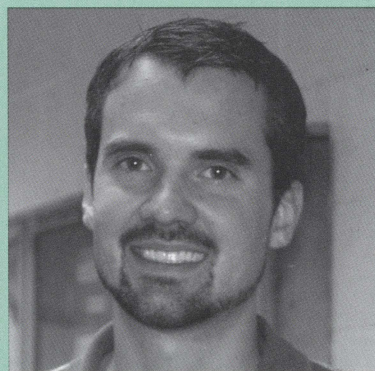
Last year I was Jigsaw from the movie Saw. If I could do it again, this time I would ride around on a tricycle.

William Shields, student assistant,
Academic Technology Help Desk



I remember one year right after my son was born I won the contest at the Bison Shop when I dressed as a clown, big red shoes and all. Everyone used to dress up and really show their spirit. It was always a good time.

Susan McKenzie, manager,
Computer Support Services



One year, when I was too old to go trick-or-treating, I borrowed a gothic mask from my dad and stuffed myself with straw. I waited very still in front of my parents' house until kids would come to the door for candy, then I would jump out to scare them.

Daniel Lundberg, assistant
professor, Chemistry Department

Enrichment Day

continued from page 1

effective, Gallaudet must remain viable for future students.

Dr. Davila's plan to accomplish this is a new strategic planning initiative that will require the efforts of the entire campus community—in the same way that the campus united and worked successfully to have its accreditation reaffirmed. And, in the same way as that task was accomplished in record time, Davila envisions that this plan will be completed before he steps down as president in December 2009. The Board of Trustees and the President's Office have collaborated to establish a joint Board of Trustees and campus task force led by trustee Jeffrey Humber to guide this long-range planning process. This group will include a Gallaudet University Alumni Association representative. There will also be an on-campus steering committee that includes faculty, staff, and administrators. Dr. Richard Lytle, special

assistant to the president, will take the role of director of strategic planning.

Humber said the Board of Trustees wants to take an active role in the strategic planning process, not only to become more involved in the University itself, but to help the trustees become more informed in the search for Gallaudet's next president. Quoting the old adage, "If you don't know where you're going, any road will take you there," Humber said that the University has to have a clear vision of where it wants to go in order to find the right leader to fulfill its goal.

Humber then introduced the featured speaker for Enrichment Day, Dr. Robert Sevier, senior vice president for strategy, Stamats Higher Education Marketing, who has worked with more than 100 colleges, large and small, over the past 25 years to help them with planning or to improve enrollment.

Sevier began his talk by acknowledging Davila's statement that Gallaudet no longer has the luxury of waiting compla-

cantly for students to come to the University. The fact is that four elements—shrinking demographics of college-bound students, skyrocketing tuition fees, competition for tuition dollars, and a global economic crises—have simultaneously come into play, creating a "perfect storm" for the 3,600 colleges and universities in the United States. Yes, education is indeed at a crossroads, and the very survival of many colleges and universities depends on foresight and realistic planning. But for those careful stewards, the challenges have created a brave new world full of exciting opportunities for growth.

Sevier presented sobering data to illustrate the decline in the traditional pool of potential college students—2,100 high school students drop out of school each day; only one in five high school students goes to college full time and lives in a residence hall; in 2009, the U.S. will see the highest number of high school graduates in its history, followed by a 30-year decline. On the flip side, the number of college-bound students of color is on the rise, as is the number of non-traditional college students—those who are older, who commute to campus, or who attend part time. Also on the rise is the popularity of online courses. Today, 75 percent of U.S. colleges have them, and 35 percent offer online degrees. The key for an institution's success, said Sevier, is flexibility between "brick and click"—the combination of traditional classroom and distance education courses.

Regarding competition, a high school senior with a "B" average will be contacted by an average of 500 colleges—often as many as 12 times. Students apply to more schools than in the past—seven or eight is the norm—and when they apply, one of the biggest things they are looking for is financial assistance—not just loans, but scholarships and other gifts. Sevier said statistics show that the choice of which college a student attends is usually decided by his or her mother, and physi-

cal and emotional safety is a major issue in that decision.

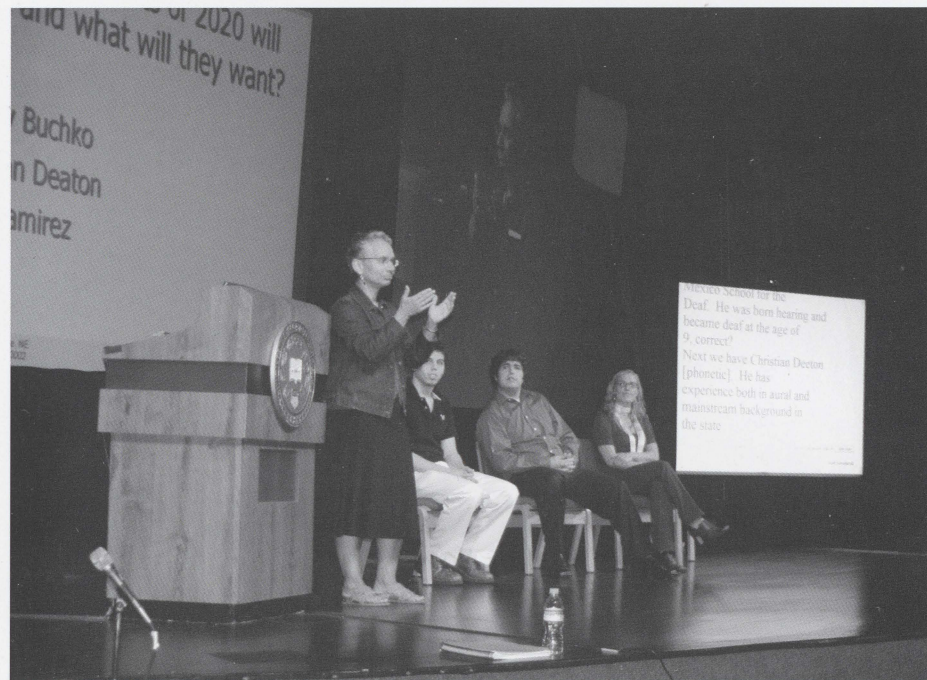
Sevier's advice for colleges and universities to be successful is to narrow their focus on excellence. "It's better to be really good at a few things that really excite you," he said. Gallaudet "has a valid point of differentiation from other colleges and universities," he added, but like all of them, it will have to be prepared for change. "You're going to have to make some tough decisions," he said.

Following Sevier's talk was a panel discussion entitled "The Gallaudet Freshman Class of 2020 is alive and doing well in my kindergarten and first grade classroom," led by Edward Bosso, dean of the Clerc Center; Tina Tingler, assistant principal of Mantua Elementary School, Fairfax, Va.; and James Tucker, superintendent of the Maryland School for the Deaf, Frederick. All of the panelists reported on the rapid rise in the number of students with cochlear implants and how this growing population is affecting teaching methods at their schools.

While ASL continues to be an important part of the foundation of language development at all three schools, there is a demand by some parents for oral programs. Tingler said the Mantua School utilizes ASL and English, but other county school programs use cued speech and oral teaching methods. Tucker said that this fall, due to parental desires, the Maryland School added a first grade class with four students being taught orally. But as Tucker pointed out, despite the increase in children who have cochlear implants, as well as improved hearing aids that other deaf and hard of hearing children use, the need for schools and programs specifically designed for deaf students is very real. These students "want a sense of belonging [to the deaf community]—it's human nature, and I think that's important."

Another panel, "What will students of 2020 be like and what will they want?" was led by Christian Deaton and Mark Ramirez, both Gallaudet students, and Lindsay Buchko, a graduate of the Rochester Institute of Technology and an instructor in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. Some of the points the panelists raised is that Gallaudet should maintain its role as a strong proponent of ASL, maintain a top-notch athletic program, continue its efforts to ensure that the campus is safe, offer more organizations to students to make sure that everyone has a sense of belonging, and offer more comfortable, innovatively designed dorm rooms and attractive places to study on campus—such as a late-night café.

Before academic departments met separately to discuss and to develop questions that they feel should guide Gallaudet's long-range planning, Provost Stephen Weiner concluded the morning by saying he felt that Enrichment Day served as a fitting kick-off for planning the process. "It's a new day and a very exciting day here at Gallaudet," he said. Keeping Gallaudet a viable choice for future generations of college students is something that the entire campus community has a role in, he said, and he encouraged everyone to get involved. ■



Physical Education professor Dr. Gina Oliva makes a comment during a presentation by a panel of young deaf people who were asked to imagine what students of tomorrow will want from a Gallaudet education.



Faculty and staff enjoy food, libations, and camaraderie while celebrating a successful Enrichment Day at the second meeting of the University Club. Celebrants pictured at the October 14 event are (clockwise from top left): Teresa Burke, an instructor in the Department of Philosophy and Religion, Dr. Gina Oliva, a professor in the Department of Physical Education and Recreation, and Dr. Barbara White, a professor in the Department of Social Work; Sandy McLennon, an assistant professor in the Department of Physical Education and Recreation, and Elicia Varnado, database management assistant in the Admissions Office; and Dr. H-Dirksen Bauman, a professor in the Department of ASL and Deaf Studies addressing the crowd. Bauman, a member of the University Club Task Force, was inspired by the jovial atmosphere to demonstrate an alternative to flashing the lights to get the group's attention—technique from Italy. Standing with him is Dr. Rachel Hartig, a professor in the Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Cultures and a fellow task force member. "This will help our community become stronger," Bauman said.

Campus Calendar

October

31—Undergraduate Open House, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Halloween Blood Drive, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., JSAC, Flex A/B; "Death Walkers" booth: information about the risks of drinking and driving, 5 p.m., JSAC G-Area; Awareness of Sexual Aggression workshop, 2-3:30 p.m., JSAC, Rm. 2212

November

3—Campus-wide Dialogue on Race, 1-4 p.m., JSAC Multipurpose Room; PFLAG monthly meeting, 7:30-9 p.m., HMB, Rm. S135
5—Free HIV testing, 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m., JSAC conference room
6—Green Lecture Series: presentation by fish and wildlife biologist Ron Popowski, noon-1 p.m., JSAC, Rm. 1011; Breaking the Stigma of Mental Health, 6-7 p.m., JSAC, Rm. 1010; workshop and performance by the Piscataway Indian Nation Singers and Dancers, 7 p.m., Foster Auditorium; "Thursday Night Live" with Campus Crusade for Christ, 7:30 p.m., Library, Rm. B111
7—Graduate School Open House, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Peikoff Alumni House; Lillian Gourley Rakow Creative Writing Contest deadline, 2 p.m., English Department; Awareness of Sexual Aggression workshop, 2-3:30 p.m., JSAC, Rm. 2212
10—Coffee with President Davila for faculty and staff, 9-10 a.m., SLCC atrium
11—"7 Dimensions to Wellness" presentation, 6-7 p.m., JSAC, Rm. 1010
13—"Thursday Night Live" with Campus Crusade For Christ, 7:30 p.m., Library, Rm. B111
14—Undergraduate Open House, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., JSAC Multipurpose Room; Awareness of Sexual Aggression workshop, 2-3:30 p.m., JSAC, Rm. 2212; Soda with President Davila for students, 3-4 p.m., SLCC atrium
19—Free HIV testing, 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m., JSAC conference room
20—Learn about ADHD, 6-7 p.m., JSAC, Rm. 1010; Diversity Dance Showcase, 7 p.m., SLCC atrium; "Thursday Night Live" with Campus Crusade for Christ, 7:30 p.m., Library, Rm. B111
21—Awareness of Sexual Aggression workshop, 2-3:30 p.m., JSAC, Rm. 2212
26—Thanksgiving Holiday, no classes held
27-28—Thanksgiving Holiday, University closed

Ask Cousin Sally

Dear Cousin Sally,

I attended the recent University Club gathering in "Ole Jim" and had a great time. But I noticed that this time around we were asked to contribute money for these functions, and I can see this headed toward compulsory donations. Do you think that's appropriate? We've worked hard, so aren't we entitled to some free entertainment?

**Cherishing the Hospitality, Earnestly
Avoiding Payouts**

Dear CHEAP,

I stopped in at the party, and it sure was something! I almost wished I could introduce myself and start actually socializing. All the good times and high wooden ceilings reminded me of the old barn soirees we used to throw on the farm. But we always worried that old Miss Hastings might bring her blueberry cream-flavored cigar a little too close to a hay bale and the whole building might

go up in flames. If that had happened, you can bet we would have pitched in some cash to rebuild, and then gone right back to putting a few dollars in Mr. Whitmer's overalls pocket on our way to the next shindig. That sure was a fine way to spend an evening, and those overalls sure looked funny stuffed with dollar bills by the end of the night!

Maybe I'm getting off topic here, but let me just say this: CHEAP, I challenge you to find another workplace as close-knit, supportive, and fun-loving as Gallaudet. And if you ever do find that place, check to see if they give out free food and drinks on a regular basis. My guess is you'll never find such a warm atmosphere, let alone a gratis party. Isn't it worth shelling out a little donation to keep gatherings like that happening?

Cousin Sally, OTG's resident retired dairy farmer and advice columnist, is waiting for your questions at cousin.sally@gallaudet.edu.



Catherine Sweet-Windham meets with Board of Trustees Vice Chair Frank Wu for one last time as special assistant to the president for board and external relations. Wu joined many of Sweet-Windham's colleagues who came to an October 13 reception to say goodbye to her and wish her good luck at her new job. She has accepted a position as vice president for institutional advancement for the University of Maryland, University College in Adelphi.



Eloise Molock (right), program director for the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs, a unit of the Office of Diversity and Equity for Students, is recognized for 15 years of service to the University by Eileen Matthews, director of Diversity and Equity for Students.

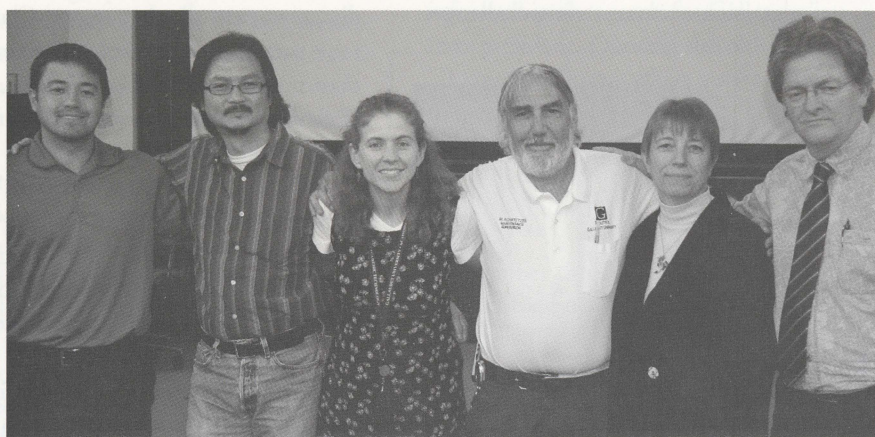
Gallaudet students volunteer for Obama campaign

Five Gallaudet students, in collaboration with Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama's Campaign for Change, volunteered in northern Virginia on October 5. They worked at the campaign's Virginia headquarters in Springfield, canvassed voters, and established contacts with campaign staff.

"I'm so excited for Gallaudet to be part of this," said Margaret Kimbrell, who does outreach with the campaign. Outreach Coordinator Justin Slaughter was pleased to see Gallaudet students join the effort with other area schools. "It's important to have a diverse group of students," Slaughter said.

Student Meghan Venterini said that she got involved because of Obama's position on disability rights. "He's strong on equal access in the workplace and other important issues for deaf voters," she said. "Obama has a disability policy," added Leah Katz-Hernandez, who helped to coordinate the volunteering. "McCain does not."

Although Katz-Hernandez is an Obama supporter, she stresses that when she reaches out to fellow students, her goal is nonpartisan. "We want to bring students into the political process," she said. "Voting now will solidify that behavior and ensure that they continue to vote." ■



Staff Advisory Council (SAC) members pose for a photo before their October 17 Town Hall meeting for staff. Pictured (from left) are: Ben Hosina, member; Peter Un, member; Sheri Youens-Un, chair; Marc Schweitzer, member; Elaine Vance, ex-officio member; and Jimmy Gore, member. (Not pictured are members Shannon Augustine, Darian Burwell, Erin Casler, and Jill Naumann, and Jerri Lyn Dominy, secretary.) For information about SAC, go to sac.gallaudet.edu. The SAC solicited nominations for representation on the Presidential Search Advisory Committee and later announced two finalists—Erin Casler and Stephen Perry. The Board of Trustees will select one of the finalists.



Photo: Claudia Matern

A panel of professionals share insights on networking, preparing for job interviews, dressing for success, addressing accommodations, and more tips for employment- and internship-bound students at an October 13 presentation entitled Career Soup. The event, hosted by the Career Center, was moderated by Erin Fisher (standing, left), a career consultant in the department, and featured (from second left) Barbara Nehrir, business development coordinator for Administration and Finance; Anthony Napoli, case manager for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Civil Rights; Fred Weiner, executive director of program development for Administration and Finance; and Derick Eng, recruitment and alumni affairs manager with the program City Year in Washington, D.C.

Clerc Center Happenings

MSSD alumnus contributes to 'New York Times' blog

By Susan M. Flanigan

Teachers always begin the school year armed with enthusiasm, certain expectations, and goals. For most of them, their trials and triumphs play out to a small group of colleagues, friends, and families. Some teachers, however, have a much bigger audience.

One of these teachers is Joseph Santini, a member of MSSD's Class of 1997. He is beginning his second year at Junior High School 47 in downtown Manhattan, where he is teaching English and American Sign Language to both deaf and hearing students. Santini is part of a *New York Times* blog series on teachers' frontline reports entitled "About Lesson Plans."

In the introduction to the series, which debuted this fall, the *Times* editors write: "In an age of charter schools, home schools, No Child Left Behind, standardized testing, overstretched public schools, the battle for resources, voucher plans and evolving notions about special education and special needs, the act of teaching has never been more complicated. In Lesson Plans, a group of teachers chronicle their experiences during the first weeks of the school, offering firsthand accounts of today's classroom challenges from diverse perspectives."

Santini brings many talents with him to his classroom as a writer, blogger, filmmaker, and educator. When he was an MSSD student, Santini showed enthusiasm for the arts, writing, and student leadership. He served on the MSSD's *Telegraph Hill News* and contributed to *Aerie*, a student poetry anthology. He performed in the MSSD Road Show and

other student productions, and was involved with the Student Body Government and Junior National Association for the Deaf. Santini has continued to develop his writing and media interests. He has won awards for his films, including Best Emerging Artist award at the 2007 Superfest film festival for his short film "...let us spell it out for you." He is currently writing screenplays and a book of poetry in addition to contributing to the Lesson Plans series. His most recent posting has already received more than two dozen comments.

In his essay, "The Language of Respect," posted by the *Times* on October 14, Santini recounts the way his students questioned his ability to teach both English and ASL to a mix of deaf and hearing students. In one example he shares how he helped a deaf student develop an understanding of the uses of the indefinite articles "a" vs. "an" by recognizing the pattern of the rule through sight instead of sound.

"In that minute I understood that for people of my own culture—Deaf students—my worth as a teacher was going to lie at least partly in being able to translate cultural information in a meaningful way—and yes, the phonetic nature of standard English and the way it is taught are aspects of American culture that had blocked his acquiring of knowledge. This student is now far more likely to respect my suggestions and criticism in class."

To read the entire essay and previous postings, visit lessonplans.blogs.nytimes.com/author/joseph-santini/. ■

Among Ourselves

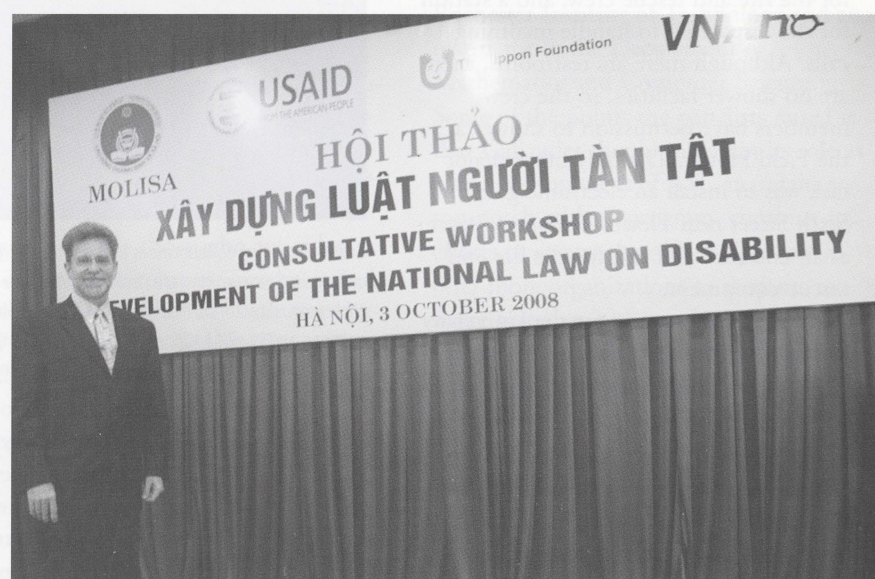


Photo: James C. Woodward, Jr.

Dr. Mike Kemp, a professor in the Department of ASL and Deaf Studies, was invited as a technical expert on information and communication access at the October 3 "Gathering Inputs and Recommendations for the Development of the National Law on Disability" conference, held in Hanoi, Vietnam. The country is in the process of drafting a law on disabilities as a result of The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities that the United Nations adopted in 2006. Kemp, who has made frequent trips as a visiting professor at the Cao Dang Su Pham (teacher training center) in Dong Nai Province near Ho Chi Minh City, spoke on behalf of deaf Vietnamese.